

# CHEVY S10 REAR AXLE

FOR EARLY +8

By Bill Button

A couple of years ago while at MOGWEST I ran into a +8 with a Chevy S10 Rear Axle. Frankly I would not have been able to identify it as not having a standard Salisbury that was stock issue for this car. I was looking for a rear axle for my +8 Project and decided to explore this alternative. It turns out it was engineered by Frank Tuttle, a Northern California Morgan mechanic of some note. He is Toby Tuttle's Dad. If you don't know Toby, well Toby owns Pierspeed in Santa Cruz and is a well known Morgan Mechanic in that area.

I contacted Frank and he gave me a few details:

Should be able to source a S10 for about \$150 from a wrecking yard.

The spring perch's must be removed and replaced to ones suitable for a Morgan.

The wheel flange on the axle must be re-drilled to fit alloy wheels.

The rear Brake drums are considerably bigger than a Morgan and if they are to be used a "Brake Proportioner" needs to be installed. He set this at its lowest setting and the brakes seem to be well balanced.

Although Frank did not install a "Limited Slip" unit, they are readily available either at the wrecking yard or in the after market.

I was able to source a S10 for \$150 at Meridian Auto Wrecking just East of Tacoma. A welding/spring shop on Hiway 99 near Federal Way removed the old spring perch's and welded on new as well as fabricating "U" Bolts to clamp it down. I purchased a new Auburn Limited Slip from a supplier I found on the Internet for about \$400. I opted for a 3.42 axle ratio. But everything from less than 3.0 to 3.73 is available and relatively cheap. I did take this unit to an axle expert in Burien and had him install the Limited Slip, set the backlash and insure that it was properly assembled. The whole job cost about \$800. That's quite a savings, as it would have cost \$2,500+ to source a Factory BTR.

Even an expert would have to look twice to determine that it was not original equipment.

**It is understood that the information contained herein is offered without any undertaking whatsoever and no warranty is suggested or may be implied.**